

The Hidden Losers In Softbank's \$20 Billion Sprint Deal

[Softbank](#) [1] bought a controlling stake in [Sprint](#) [2] for ~\$20 billion.

It's bad news for [Yahoo](#) [3], Yahoo shareholders, Marissa Mayer, Silicon Valley VCs, and tech startups.



Here's how:

- Yahoo Japan is a joint venture between Yahoo and Softbank. Softbank was, until a few weeks ago, preparing to pay Yahoo ~\$3 billion for its stake. Already stalled over price, that deal is probably off the table for now. Loser: Mayer.
- Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer was probably going to use at least some of the money for a dividend or share buyback. Loser: Yahoo shareholders.
- Mayer has already pledged \$3 billion of the \$3.65 billion Yahoo netted from its sale of [Alibaba](#) [4] stock to shareholders, so she was probably keep some of the Yahoo Japan money to **buy** startups. That's not going to happen now. Loser: Startups and their venture capitalist backers.

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Links:

- [1] <http://www.businessinsider.com/blackboard/softbank>
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